

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SENATOR SCOTT

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Contact: Kevin Sayers,
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Emerald Ash Borer Tree Planting Grants

State Department of Natural Resources officials today announced grant applications are available for Michigan communities suffering tree losses related to Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

The program provides financial and technical assistance to communities affected by the loss of tree cover. The US Department of Agriculture Forest Service has awarded Michigan \$1.2 million for tree planting efforts in fiscal year 2004.

Grant applications are accepted from local units of government in the 13 quarantined counties of Genesee, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Shiawassee, Washtenaw and Wayne.

Grant applications must be received by Mar. 5 to be considered for funding. Projects must be completed by May 31, 2005. All grants require matching funds of at least 50 percent. The match may be cash contributions or in-kind services, but may not include federal or state funds. Grants up to \$20,000 each will be awarded on a competitive basis and applicants are ranked according to local EAB impact.

Emerald Ash Borer was first identified in Michigan during the summer of 2002, presumably transported inadvertently from its native Asia in cargo shipping materials. To date, the pest has killed nearly 6 million ash trees in Southeast Michigan. Michigan is home to an estimated 700 million ash trees.

For more information or to obtain a grant application, contact Kevin Sayers, Urban and Community Forester, at 517-241-4632, DNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division, PO Box 30452, Lansing, MI 48909-7952, or visit the website at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

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